CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a network interface for coupling to a network; ~~and~~

a memory to store a plurality of packets received from the network through the network interface; and

a processor coupled with the network interface and the memory, in which the processor is adapted to

~~receive voice data packets through a packet switched network;~~

~~store the received packets in a buffer;~~

play out some of the stored packets ~~from the buffer~~;

extract a comparative discardability code ~~of a specific~~ from at least one of the stored packets responsive to a reduction in the size of the memory, where the comparative discardability code identifies a class of speech corresponding to voice data associated with the stored packets ~~relative to the others~~;

~~make a discard decision for the specific packet in accordance with the extracted comparative discardability code;~~ and

delete at least one of the ~~specific packet~~ packets from the memory without playing it out according to the extracted comparative discardability codes ~~if the discard decision is to drop the packet~~.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, in which the processor is further adapted to

compare a plurality of the stored packets according to the extracted comparative discardability codes;

set a discarding probability in accordance with the comparison of the stored packets ~~analyzed comparative discardability code,~~; and

delete at least one of the packets from the memory ~~in which the discard decision is made~~ in accordance with the set discarding probability.

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4.   (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

means for receiving voice data packets through a packet switched network;

means for storing the received packets in a buffer;

means for playing out some of the stored packets from the buffer;

means for adjusting the size of the buffer;

means for extracting a comparative discardability code ~~of a specific~~ from at least one

of the stored packets responsive to a reduction in the size of the buffer ~~relative to the others~~;

~~means for making a discard decision for the specific packet in accordance with the~~

~~extracted comparative discardability code~~; and

means for deleting at least one of the ~~specific packet~~ packets from the memory

without playing it out according to the extracted comparative discardability codes ~~if the~~

~~discard decision is to drop the packet~~.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4, further comprising:

means for comparing a plurality of the stored packets according to the extracted

comparative discardability codes;

means for setting a discarding probability in accordance with the comparison of the

stored packets ~~analyzed comparative discardability code,~~; and

means for deleting at least one of the packets from the memory ~~in which the discard~~

~~decision is made~~ in accordance with the set discarding probability.

7.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage

medium having instructions stored thereon, in which when the instructions are executed by at

least one device, they result in:

receiving voice data packets through a packet switched network;

storing the received packets in a buffer;

playing out some of the stored packets from the buffer;

extracting a comparative discardability code ~~of a specific~~ from at least one of the

stored packets responsive to a reduction in the size of the buffer ~~relative to the others~~;

~~making a discard decision for the specific packet in accordance with the extracted~~

~~comparative discardability code~~; and

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deleting ~~at least one of~~ the ~~specific packet~~ packets from the memory without playing it out according to the extracted comparative discardability codes ~~if the discard decision is to drop the packet~~.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 7, in which the instructions further result in:

comparing a plurality of the stored packets according to the extracted comparative discardability codes;

setting a discarding probability in accordance with the comparison of the stored packets ~~analyzed comparative discardability code,~~; and

deleting at least one of the packets from the memory ~~in which the discard decision is made~~ in accordance with the set discarding probability.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving voice data packets through a packet switched network;

storing the received packets in a buffer;

playing out some of the stored packets from the buffer;

extracting a comparative discardability code ~~of a specific~~ from at least one of the stored packets responsive to a reduction in the size of the buffer ~~relative to the others~~;

~~making a discard decision for the specific packet in accordance with the extracted comparative discardability code~~; and

deleting at least one of the ~~specific packet~~ packets from the memory without playing it out according to the extracted comparative discardability codes ~~if the discard decision is to drop the packet~~.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

comparing a plurality of the stored packets according to the extracted comparative discardability codes;

setting a discarding probability in accordance with the comparison of the stored packets ~~analyzed comparative discardability code,~~; and

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deleting at least one of the packets from the memory in which the discard decision is made in accordance with the set discarding probability.

13.   (New) The device of claim 4 including means for reducing the size of the memory available to store the packets responsive to a reduction of congestion associated with the network.

14.   (New) The device of claim 4 including means for extracting the comparative discardability code from the stored packets responsive to a reduction in congestion associated with the network.

15.   (New) The device of claim 1 including a speaker to play out voice data associated with the packets stored in the memory, where the processor is adapted to provide the voice data to the speaker without transmitting the stored packets over a network.

16.   (New) The method of claim 1 where the processor is adapted to
compare a plurality of stored packet according to the class of speech;
identify packets that include sequential voice data frames with differing classes of speech; and
delete one or more of the stored packets responsive to the identifying.